

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Various claims are being amended as shown above. The claim amendments clarify the claim language and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims, unless the claim language is expressly quoted in the following remarks to distinguish over the cited art. No new matter is introduced by the amendment shown above.

In section 1 of the office action, claim 2 was objected to because of various informalities. Accordingly, claim 2 is being cancelled above. For the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 2.

In section 2 of the office action, claims 1-3, 6-7, 12-13, 29 and 31-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Alvarez (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002184579) in view of Novak, et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,952). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Alvarez discloses a method to activate or inactivate a page by use of the inactive memory 230 and active memory 220. The Examiner correctly admits in the office action that Alvarez lacks a method/device/assembly/apparatus for producing a device having a reduced memory capacity and a dormant memory wherein the memory capacity is reduced by inactivating at least one row of a memory bank of the device or at least one column of the memory bank of the device. In an attempt to overcome the deficiency of Alvarez, the Examiner relies on Novak in an attempt to show various features.

However, Novak is directed to a method/apparatus for optimizing memory performance with opportunistic refreshing, where a processor cannot access an SDRAM while a refresh operation is taking place. As noted in Novak, column 1, lines 23-31, SDRAM chips are refreshed in order to recharge the SDRAM capacitors which lose their charge over time. Since the SDRAM capacitors are recharged by the refresh operations, the SDRAM will always retain their information; therefore, the SDRAM is always available for use as a storage device because the refresh operation ensures proper/accurate information retention/storage by the SDRAM.

Independent claim 1 is being amended to recite the limitations of claim 7 which is being cancelled above. Therefore, no new issues are raised by the amendment to the claims. Independent claim 1 distinguishes over the Alvarez-Novak combination at least by reciting, a method including "*furnishing an apparatus with said device having said reduced memory capacity and the dormant memory capacity which is not available for use*", and such recited features are not disclosed nor suggested by the Alvarez-Novak combination.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the Alvarez-Novak combination.

Various independent claims are also being amended to recite similar features that are not disclosed nor suggested by the Alvarez-Novak combination. Accordingly, various independent claims are each patentable over the Alvarez-Novak combination.

Various dependent claims depend from various ones of independent claims that are each patentable over the Alvarez-Novak combination. The various dependent claims further distinguishes over the Alvarez-Novak combination by reciting additional features. Accordingly, the various dependent claims are each patentable over the Alvarez-Novak combination.

For the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically point out where such teachings may be found.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (805) 681-5078.

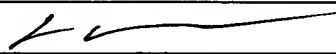
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Respectfully submitted,
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